GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1372
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2016
Greening Rural Development Programmes
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government under its initiative of Greening Rural Development Programmes (GRDP) in India;

(b) whether adequate steps are taken under schemes like MGNREGS, PMGSY etc. to ensure sustainable development of a cleaner and healthier rural India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the ecological impact of implementation of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development and if so, the details and findings thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to improve ecological impact of its programmes by taking appropriate measures to align the activities carried out under various rural schemes in accordance with the guidelines of GRDP and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Rural Development has setup a Task Force for Greening Rural Development with the following objectives:

i. Natural resource protection, conservation and upgradation

ii. Improved efficiency in use of such resources

iii. Proactive dissemination of green technologies for adoption in different programmes.

iv. Reduction of negative environmental impacts

v. Strengthening of climate resilience of communities and eco-systems.

vi. Convergence of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for greening.

(b) & (c): Yes, details of schemes IAY, MGNREGA, NRLM & PMGSY are in Annexure.

(d): IAY - Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with UNDP is conducting state specific studies suggesting house designs which are cost-effective, environment friendly, disaster resilient and sustainable suitable for different geo-climatic zones of the respective States.
MGNREGA - Institute of Science (IISc) in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development and GIZ (2013) came to several conclusions in their research done in 4 districts of four states with a total sample of 2057 beneficiary households. The study results validate the purpose of asset creation through MGNREGS works. The results show that:-

1. MGNREGS has contributed to improved or sustained groundwater levels where ground water levels have remained stable, despite increased extraction.

2. Increased water availability for irrigation where area irrigated has increased in the range of .2 to 57 Ha (depending on the nature of work) in the surveyed worksites. Improved drinking water availability for humans and livestock.

3 . Gross area under cultivation increased in the range of 43% to 102% in the surveyed villages due to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA interventions. Average crop yields increased by 46to 100 % in the surveyed fields. Diversity in cropping was also observed.

4. Due to the land development, contour and field bunding, terracing and water related NRM works, soil fertility increased significantly and soil erosion was shown to have been reduced by 82% in 779 beneficiary sample plots.

5. This study included assessments of ecological, socioeconomic and physical indicators such as groundwater, soil and organic carbon and biomass estimation. It assessed community response through household surveys and PRA methods.

(e): Ministry has come up with a technical manual named "SAMARTHYA" which will guide the States/UTs to carry out all the permissible works under MGNREGA more efficiently.

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